

UNIFIED ARIZONA VETERANS (UAV), P.O. BOX 34338, PHOENIX, AZ 85067

**MINUTES OF THE UAV GENERAL MEETING HELD ON JUNE 2, 2012
AT THE STATE VETERAN HOME, 4141 N. SILVESTRE HERRERA WAY,
PHOENIX, AZ 85012**

CALL TO ORDER: 10:03 a.m. by Chairman Lew Bradley, followed by Invocation by Chaplain Bo Bohach, and the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PRESENTATION: “Phoenix VA Health Care System Update” – Sharon Helman,
Director, Phoenix VA Health Care System**

Director Helman has been taking care of veterans for the past 22 years, Phoenix is her fourth directorship. Due to an explosion of growth in Phoenix, her patient responsibility is 100,000 veterans; there are 170 new staff “in the hopper.” 26 employees are assigned in the Mental Health (PTSD, TBI) area. The new Women’s Clinic is functioning. Homeless veterans are being placed into housing (Senator Murray’s HUD-VASH Voucher Initiative). This year’s goal: PACT/Patient Advocate Coordination Team to answer treatment questions. A parking garage is anticipated in 2-3 years. The Southeast Clinic is in its design phase, anticipating completion in May 2013. By 2015, eliminate homelessness among veterans (Director of Veteran Affairs GEN Shinseki’s goal). Director Helman agreed to return in 6 months (December 2012) and give us another update.

**PRESENTATION: “Arizona Veterans’ Education Foundation (AVEF) Update,”
Gene van den Bosch, CEO & President, AVEF, a 501©(3) organization**

There are 47,000 student veterans in Arizona, the bad news is, staying in college and graduation is low: GI Bill veterans, 3-9% success. 50% of veterans have reported they did not receive help. In 2012 HB 2602 passed (Arizona veteran-supportive campus). The objectives of AVEF: increase public awareness, provide training workshops to campus faculty and staff, introduce student veterans to corporate cultures, provide mentors to veterans, provide support for student veteran group services, textbook sharing cooperative, provide scholarships when financial needs are not met by the GI Bill.

Contact data: Gene van den Bosch, email: gene.vandenbosch@azvef.org,
Cell 480.543.8330

**PRESENTATION: “Virginia G. Piper Sports & Fitness Center for Persons with
Disabilities (SpoFit): Empowering Veterans with Disabilities” -- Brienne
McDowell, Membership Coordinator**

Ms. McDowell briefed the facilities and programs for disabled veterans at the Virginia G. Piper Sports and Fitness Center (SpoFit), 5031 E Washington, Phoenix, AZ 85034 (52nd

Street and Washington). It is a 45,000-square foot, \$13 million dollar facility with wheelchair accessible weight machines, an aquatic area equipped with lifts and elevators, accessible locker rooms, and more. The SpoFit offers a wide variety of amenities to help achieve health and fitness goals.

Contact data: Brienne McDowell at tel. 602.386.4566

PRESENTATION: “Attorneys who Volunteer to Represent Veterans,” -- Roger Ferland, Attorney

Roger Ferland is a Phoenix native, an Army platoon sergeant in Vietnam who lost his legs in Vietnam, a graduate of Duke University Law School, and has practiced law for 35 years. He is a certified veterans service officer, and a semi-retired legal counsel for veterans. Over 50% of veterans’ legal issues involve family law. Roger wants us to know that there are attorneys who volunteer to represent veterans and volunteer certified financial planners willing to work with veterans.

Roger’s email: roger.ferland@quarles.com, tel. (602) 229-5607
Fax: (602) 420-5123

ROLL CALL: Quorum established for conducting business.
May 5th, 2012 Minutes: Motion to approve by Sharon Woods, seconded by Mel Brody.
Motion carried.

TREASURER’S REPORT presented by Treasurer Jesse Gersten. Report is on file with the Secretary.

SICKNESS & DISTRESS – Chaplain Bohach

With sadness we learned of the passing of Norm Ross’ son in Seattle.

REPORTS:

1. Arizona Dept of Veterans’ Services: Homer Rodgers representing Director Strickland

Mr. Rodgers/Homer briefed the following: 4th Annual Arizona Women’s Military Veteran Conference is scheduled for Saturday, June 16th. The Arizona Military Family Relief Fund (MFRF) has provided \$1 million of financial assistance to eligible veterans who deployed from Arizona to Iraq and Afghanistan. Homeless veterans continue to receive help in the form of shelter, training, and return to employment. Repairs of 2,600 niches have been completed at the Sierra Vista Cemetery. Construction of the Northern Arizona memorial cemetery at Camp Navajo, Bellemont, is anticipated in June-July 2013. Land for cemetery use is still needed in northwest Tucson.

2. UAV Board of Directors: Chairman Bradley reported the following:

A. In the case of posthumous Inductees to the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame, a Motion to present medallions to the widow or widower. After discussion, motion made by Bob Delker and seconded by Bob Madden to present the medallion to the surviving spouse or family. Motion passed.

B. A Motion to include Past UAV Chairs on the UAV Board of Directors

After discussion, motion made by Melvin Brody and seconded by Webb Ellis. Motion passed.

This Bylaws Change will be voted on at the September 1st UAV Meeting.

5. UAV Legislative Committee: Chairman Lionel Sanchez distributed copies of the Copper Shield Nomination Form (Legislator of the Year Award); nominations are due on Monday, Sept. 3rd via U.S. mail to: Lionel Sanchez, 3602 N. 15th Avenue, Phoenix 85015. To contact Lionel: unlionel@aol.com, 602.332.5325.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS/OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Wayne Ellis, Director, NMCA/National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona, will be retiring in Sept and relocating to Myrtle Beach, SC. Fair winds and following seas to Wayne and his family!

2. The Annual Phoenix Veterans Day Parade is scheduled for Monday, November 12. Point of contact is Paula Pedene, Public Affairs Officer, VAMC.

GOOD OF THE ORDER ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Veterans Furniture Store - Barbara Sesate, CEO for United for Change, announced that they have leased a new store for 3 years at 2319 W. Holly Street, Phoenix. 500 vets have already been helped. Their new name: Veterans Furniture Store.

Contact data for Barbara Sesate: cell 602.400.5182, web site: www.unitedforchange.org

2. 50/50 Raffle Winner: Carol McKnight \$39, UAV Treasury: \$39.00.

Next Meeting: Saturday, September 1st, State Veteran Home, Liberty Hall, 10 am to Noon.

Closing prayer was given by Chaplain Bohach.

Meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

CAROL CULBERTSON
Secretary, Unified Arizona Veterans
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Office/fax: 602.943.7834